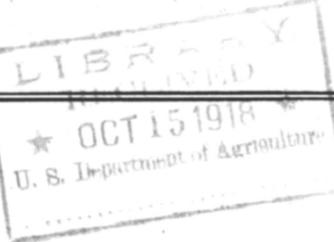


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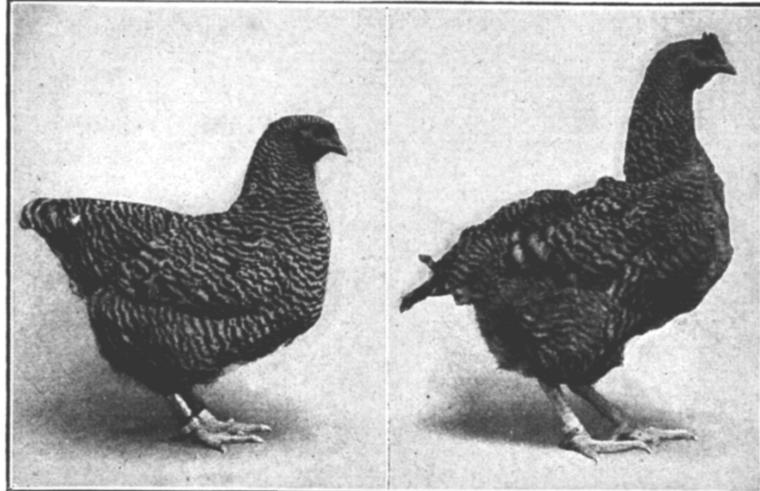
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HATCH EARLY

Early Chicks Produce Best Results



Early hatched pullet laying in the fall

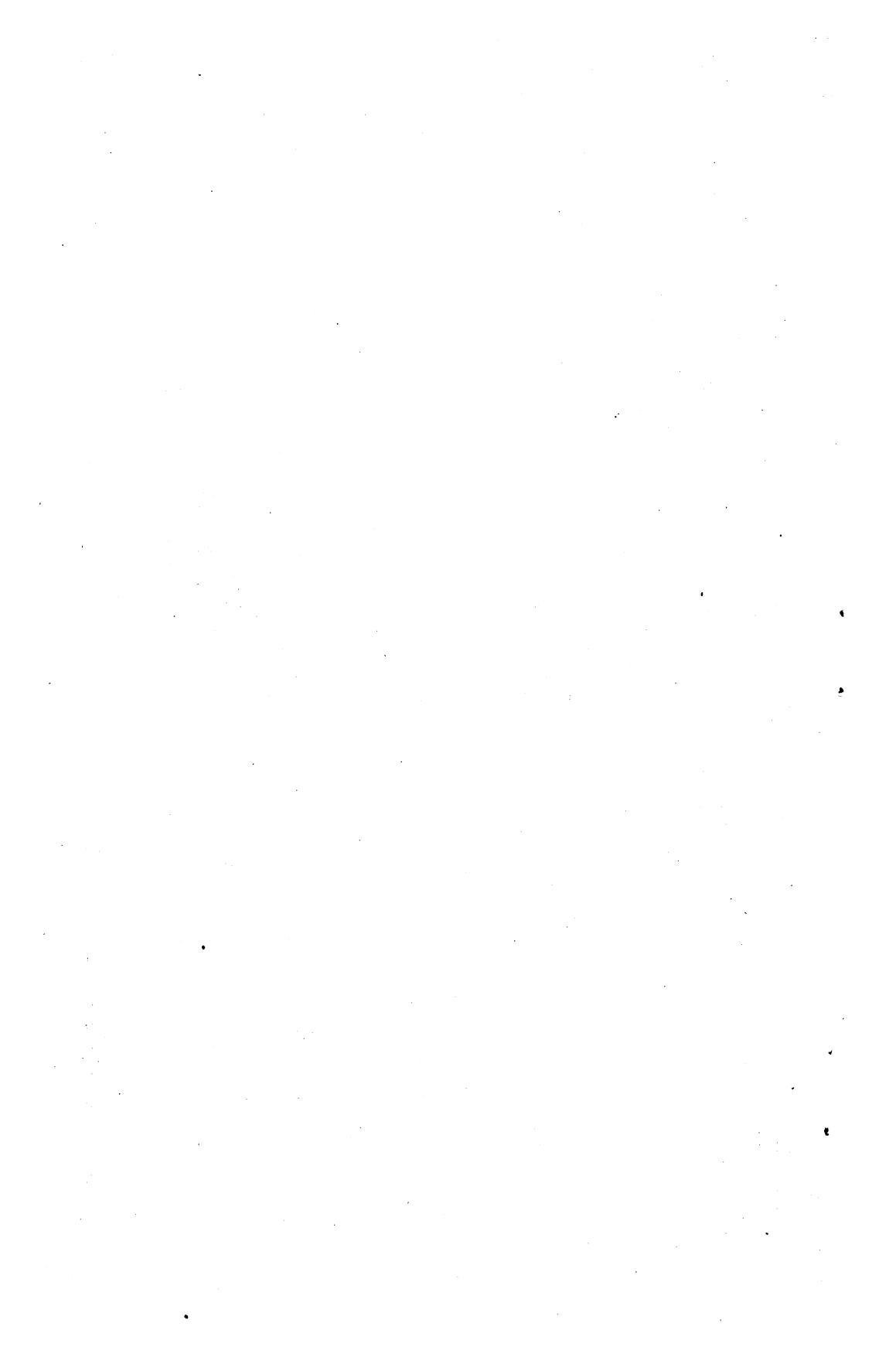
Hen molting in the fall and not laying

Issued by the

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DIVISION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

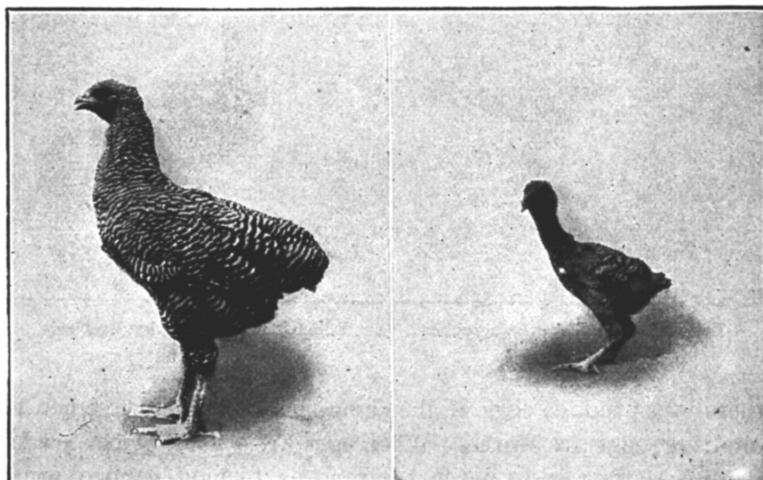
WASHINGTON, D. C.



HATCH CHICKENS EARLY

WHY HATCH EARLY?

EARLY SPRING is nature's most favorable growing season. By hatching chicks early they will have the advantage of this favorable growing season and a longer growing period than those hatched during the late spring or early summer. Given the same feed, care, and attention, chicks hatched the first of March will weigh more when they are four months old than those hatched the first of May when they are four months old. The rate of growth of a chick is greater during the first four weeks of its life than at any other period.



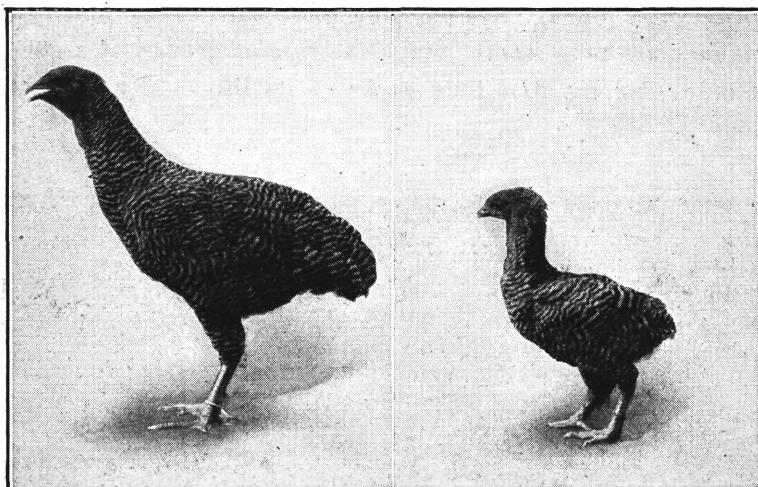
Early hatched pullet—photographed
June 26

Late hatched pullet—photographed
June 26

Therefore, other conditions being equal, the more favorable the period the greater will be the rate of growth during that period. Consequently the early hatched chick, having the advantage of a more favorable growing season, makes greater gains during the first four weeks of its life than the chick that is hatched later in the spring.

WHEN TO HATCH

February, March, and April are the best months for hatching in the North Atlantic, North Middle Western, and Northwestern States, while January, February, and March will be found the best months for hatching in the Southern and Southwestern States. If you do not have any broody hens, get several from a neighbor or elsewhere, use an incubator, or take some eggs to a nearby hatchery. Chicks hatched early with proper care and attention should reach maturity and start laying in September, October, or November. It is during these fall months that the hens are getting ready for winter by molting and growing new feathers. But few hens grow



Early hatched pullet—photographed
July 26

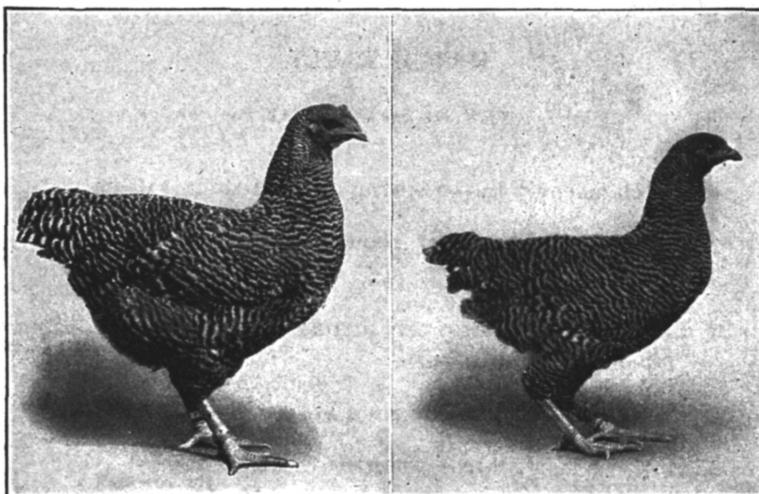
Late hatched pullet—photographed
July 26

feathers and produce eggs at the same time. Therefore, when hens are molting, eggs are scarce. When eggs are scarce, prices are high. The solution then is to hatch early so as to have early maturing pullets that will produce eggs when hens are molting.

DO NOT HATCH IN SUMMER

Millions of late hatched chicks die each year as the result of being infested with lice which are so prevalent in the summer. Then, too, hot weather retards the growth of chicks. Hatching should be done early so that the chicks will get a good start before hot weather arrives. Chicks hatched in the early spring are not so

subject to lice as those hatched during the hot weather. If for no other reason chicks should be hatched early so that their growth will not be interrupted by the hot weather and the presence of lice. Late hatched pullets are usually the ones that become infested with roup in the fall, thereby endangering the rest of the flock.



Early hatched pullet—photographed
September 26. Mature—laying

Late hatched pullet—photographed Sep-
tember 26. Immature—not laying

EARLY BROILERS BRING HIGH PRICES

Many farmers realize considerable money each spring from the sale of cockerels as broilers, the price of which is usually governed by the size when sold and the time marketed. Thus it would seem that in order to increase the amount of money from the sale of broilers and friers, early hatching should be employed so as to have a marketable sized cockerel early in the spring when prices are highest.

Market all cockerels not wanted as breeders at as early a date as possible. Never market good, strong, vigorous pullets, as these will make your early layers. Many farmers who depend entirely on hens for hatching find it difficult to hatch early for the reason that but few of their hens go broody early enough in the spring. This difficulty may be overcome when early hatching is once practiced, as early-hatched pullets are the ones that go broody early the following spring. By hatching early the farmer is enabled to give his full time to other spring work, the task of caring for hens and incubators being out of the way.

HATCH EARLY

TEN REASONS WHY

1. Hatch as early in the spring as conditions will permit.
2. Early hatched chicks grow rapidly and have more vigor.
3. Early hatched chicks are strong and less liable to die from lice and disease.
4. Early hatched chicks have a longer growing season.
5. Hot weather retards the growth of chicks.
6. Early hatched chicks mature by early fall.
7. Mature pullets produce fall and winter eggs.
8. Fall and winter eggs bring the highest prices.
9. Early hatched pullets lay while the hens are molting.
10. Early hatched pullets are the ones that become broody early the following spring.

**EARLY HATCHED CHICKS
PRODUCE BEST RESULTS**

HATCHING RECORD

DATE SET	DUE TO HATCH
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	

By keeping a record of all hens set and the date they are due to hatch you will be enabled to give the prompt attention necessary at the hatching period. You will also be able to note the more rapid growth of the early hatched chicks as compared with the late hatched.

POULTRY BULLETINS

The following Farmers' Bulletins may be obtained free of charge by addressing the Division of Publications, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

- No. 355, A Successful Poultry and Dairy Farm.
- No. 528, Hints to Poultry Raisers.
- No. 574, Poultry House Construction.
- No. 585, Natural and Artificial Incubation of Hens' Eggs.
- No. 624, Natural and Artificial Brooding of Chickens.
- No. 656, Community Egg Circle.
- No. 682, Simple Trap Nest for Poultry.
- No. 684, Squab Raising.
- No. 697, Duck Raising.
- No. 767, Goose Raising.
- No. 791, Turkey Raising.
- No. 801, Mites and Lice on Poultry.
- No. 806, Standard Varieties of Chickens.
 - I. The American Class.
 - No. 898, Standard Varieties of Chickens.
 - II. The Mediterranean and Continental Classes.
- No. 849, Capons and Caponizing.
- No. 889, Back-Yard Poultry Keeping.
- No. 957, Important Poultry Diseases.